



SMARTER CHOICES, FASTER COMPLETION: INDIANA'S INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Governors from all 50 states were invited to submit proposals to win one of ten \$1 million, 18-month implementation grants for innovative, high-impact college completion initiatives designed to enhance student success and close attainment gaps for traditionally underrepresented populations. Indiana's winning proposal, dubbed "Smarter Choices, Faster Completion" plan centers on two key strategies: 1) redesigning the delivery of remedial coursework at Ivy Tech Community College and 2) creating highly structured intervention strategies that better support student success at the regional campuses of Indiana University.

Redesigning Remediation at the Two-Year COMMUNITY COLLEGE level

Challenge: More than two-thirds of Indiana's community college students require remediation at an annual cost estimated to exceed \$35 million for delivering what are essentially high school level courses. Fewer than 25 percent of students who are placed in remedial education ever earn a degree and the longer students spend in remedial education, the less likely they are to ever earn a degree.

Opportunity: Indiana's remediation redesign will result in a new set of consistent policies and practices for placing students in developmental education and customizing the delivery of instruction based on students identified level of need:

- *Co-requisite component* that places students into college-level courses with supplemental support to address skill gaps effectively and expeditiously
- *Modular/emporium component* that separates developmental and college-level content into shorter, competency-based modules that can be delivered in a computer lab setting for more customized instruction.

Streamlining Student Support at the Four-Year REGIONAL CAMPUS level

Challenge: Today the majority of Indiana's college students are an exceedingly diverse group from all ages, socioeconomic circumstances and demographic backgrounds who are working (often full time), commuting to campus, and struggling to balance their classes with family and job responsibilities. As Indiana's college population has grown and become more diverse, the level of structure and guidance students require has increased commensurately.

Opportunity: Efforts to customize support for low-income and first-generation college students will continue at the state's four-year regional campuses with a robust series of interventions that include:

- "Smart choices" degree maps and advising to support on-time completion
- Block scheduling that includes summer coursework
- Cohort-based enrollment opportunities.

Advancing completion policies and incentives at the STATE level

Governor Daniels has charged the Indiana Commission for Higher Education with formulating a comprehensive package of college completion and productivity recommendations by the end of the year that will include:

- Clear college credential (degrees/certificates) production targets by institution and campus
- Performance funding refinements to further incentivize degree completion and workforce development